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Some of the articles call for special mention by reason of their exceptional excellence. Thus, the treatise on Copyrights and Trademarks, is quite up to date and practical, although for lack of space the trademark laws of the several states could not be set forth. The article on Patent Law is also very good. Dr. Andrews' work on Statutory Construction has great merit, and forms a valuable part of the general scheme of instruction adopted by the editors of *American Law and Procedure*. Special mention may be made also of the work on Constitutional Law by Professor Hall.

Many students will be able to gather more from this work than they could from a much larger and more pretentious one. Its limited size prevents it from being anything like exhaustive. But the very curtailment of the discussion on many topics, which confines the student's attention to basic principles, makes for a clearer understanding of those principles. In the larger digests and encyclopædias which purport to cover the entire field of American law, the beginner's attention is distracted by a multitude of conflicting decisions, and often where there is no conflict, the main outline of the law is lost sight of in a maze of petty details. *American Law and Procedure* will, therefore, find a place in legal literature, and will doubtless prove of great service to lawyers and general readers, as well as to the students for whom it is primarily intended. The fourteen volumes constituting this set of books are well written. The type is large and easily read. The binding is attractive and serviceable.

JOHN J. SULLIVAN.

Philadelphia.

Jenks, J. W. *Governmental Action for Social Welfare*. Pp. xvi, 226. Price, \$1.00. New York: Macmillan Company, 1910.

The chapters that make up this volume were given as the Kennedy Lectures, for 1907-08, in the New York School of Philanthropy. The title, which suggests an examination and exposition of principles underlying social legislation and administration, is a trifle misleading, for the book discusses the practical and personal difficulties that must be recognized and overcome in getting adequate legislation and effective administration.

Beginning with a summary of the handicaps to which social thought and action are subject, and of the prejudices that must be reckoned with in practical relations with men, the chapters take up in succession the problems involved in dealing with the various departments of government. The human element is emphasized throughout. Legislation is ever a matter of compromise. The average legislator is a practical man. He may be aware of the worth of a measure, but is unlikely to urge it unless there is a strong chance of success. He is likely to defer its consideration until a more favorable time, or by piecemeal gains to reach desired ends in the spirit and by the methods of compromise. With this, the social reformer should not be impatient. The reformer is largely a product of his surroundings and experiences. He must remember that those upon whom he depends for governmental action in the interest of social welfare are likewise a

product of the conditions amid which they live. Their conception of social and legislative activity, as well as their methods of work, must ever be viewed in this light. "Those, therefore, who wish to improve the welfare of society must study carefully the conditions of the state at the time of their movement, and must see to it that their reforms are adapted to those conditions."

Such is the vein of thought that runs through the book. The successive chapters are illustrative of its applications in various directions. The main weakness of these discussions is an apparent unwillingness to get down to fundamentals, and an all-sidedness of view that verges perilously on no-sidedness. The main element of strength is the mass of illustration that Professor Jenks' varied experience so richly affords.

ROSWELL C. MCCREA.

New York City.

Johnston, Henry H. *The Negro in the New World.* Pp. xxix, 499. Price, \$6.00. New York: Macmillan Company, 1910.

Whatever its merits and defects this volume is the most comprehensive study yet issued on this subject. It is likewise the best illustrated. We often forget that in the two Americas there are upward of 25,000,000 negroes (including descendants of mixed blood), of whom about 10,000,000 are in the United States.

The author is, perhaps the best informed man living as to conditions in Africa, where he has traveled widely and about which he has written many books. It is evident that he has read a wide literature dealing with the history of the transfer to the New World. The present book will be a most convenient source of information to the student wishing to learn of the history of slavery under the various old world nations in so far as their colonies here are concerned. This wide range, with the happy style of the author, and his wise choice of illustrations give great charm and value to the volume. The strength just noted, hints at its weakness—the danger of superficial observation. A knowledge of literature plus a brief journey through the United States hardly qualifies any man to pass adequate—let alone final—judgment on the situation.

Passing in review the physical characteristics of the negroes and the influence of the African environment, the author assigns the negro a place in a sub-order of the human race somewhere between the Australian natives and the whites. However in describing the influence of the African environment the author makes it clear that he is by no means certain how much of the imputed inferiority is due to race, how much to hard conditions of life.

The few pages on America before the negro came, contain a meager account of the Indians, chiefly in South America. This account is so poor that the chapter might have been left out. Then follow in order the description of slavery under the Spaniard, the Portuguese, the Dutch, the French, the British, the Danes, the chapters well illustrated, including good maps.